

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Rate of cymbidiums in India is Rs. 60-70 per spike/stem (approx)

Rate of cymbidiums abroad is US \$ 2.3 per spike/stem (approx).

Schemes for agricultural development in Maharashtra

2658. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special schemes to modernise agriculture in Maharashtra to make the State self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains; and

(b) the details of steps taken to provide high yielding variety of seeds and fertilizers in time at cheaper rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There is no special scheme other than ongoing Central sector/centrally sponsored schemes to modernise agriculture in all States including in Maharashtra. However, the Government of Maharashtra has initiated steps to implement crop production strategies in consonance with the agro climatic zones, with the active involvement and support of Agricultural Universities located in the State.

(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is organising Zonal and All India Conferences with the States to take care of their requirement of improved seeds and fertilisers. While prices of urea are subject to price distribution and movement controls, there is a scheme for concessional sale of decontrolled fertilisers such as DAP MOP SSP and complexes.